

REMARKS

Claims 7-11 are currently pending and stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious from Kao. Claims 1-6 were previously cancelled without prejudice.

Claim 7 recites, among other limitations, “a comparator for determining whether the FIFO is empty or full based on a comparison of a Gray code associated with the read pointer and a Gray code associated with the write pointer”.

Assignee thanks the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the interview of September 20, 2007. Assignee respectfully disagrees with the characterization of Figure 1 and the “Applicant’s invention” in the June 20, 2007 Office Action. Figure 1 and the rest of Assignee’s specification both speak for themselves. Assignee maintains that Kao does not disclose “a comparator for determining whether the FIFO is empty or full based on a comparison of a Gray code associated with the read pointer and a Gray code associated with the write pointer”.

Specifically, Assignee submits that, in Kao, the “Subtractor 309” receives the output of “Gray Code to Sequential Converter 308” and the “Read Pointer 305” which is implemented by “a convention sequential counter”. Kao, Col. 3, Lines 35-36. Similarly, in Figure 9, “Subtractor” receives the output of the “Gray Code to Sequential Converter” and the write pointer, which is implemented by a conventional sequential counter. Kao Col. 7, Lines 7-9. Neither Subtractor in Figure 3 or Figure 9 is comparing Gray code to Gray code, as claimed in Assignee’s claim 7.

Accordingly, for at least the above reasons, Assignee respectfully traverses the rejection to claim 7 as obvious from Kao, and requests that Examiner withdraw the rejection to claim 7, and dependent claims 8 – 10.

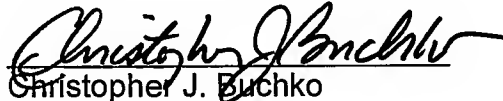
Assignee also traverses the rejection to claim 11 for at least the same reasons indicated above.

CONCLUSION

Assignee respectfully submits that each of the pending claims are allowable, making the application in a condition for allowance. Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this case to issuance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the amount enclosed or any additional fees which may be required under 37 CFR 1.16 or 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 13-0017 in the name of McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Ltd.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christopher J. Buchko", is written over a horizontal line.

Christopher J. Buchko
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 52,668

Date: September 26, 2007

McANDREWS, HELD & MALLOY, LTD.
500 W. Madison – 34th Floor
Chicago, IL 60661
Phone: (312) 775-8000
FAX: (312) 775-8100